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November 7, 2011

Mr. Fethi Benjemaa  
California Department of Water Resources  
Water Use Efficiency Branch  
SBX7-7 Program  
P.O. Box 94236-001

Subject: Comments on November 1, 2011 Department of Water Resources  
Draft Report to Legislature on Quantifying the Efficiency of Ag Water Use

Dear Mr. Benjemaa:

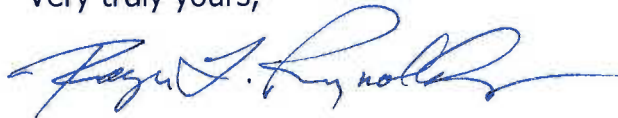
At the November 2, 2011 meeting of the Agricultural Stakeholder Committee (ASC) Quantification of Efficiency of Agricultural Water Use (A1) Subcommittee the Department of Water Resources (DWR) reviewed with the Subcommittee the subject initial draft report to the legislature. The purpose of this letter is to comment on portions of the discussion and the responses which were provided to the A1 Subcommittee at the meeting.

1. During initial review comments provided by Manucher Alemi, he mentioned the preferred option for Quantifying the Efficiency of Agricultural Water Use at the Regional Scale would be to utilize the DWR land and water use analysis from the California Water Plan Update to calculate or implement the developed methodologies.
2. Under the Plan for Implementation (Chapter 6), there was a lot of discussion on the examples provided for the Field, Water Supplier, and Regional Scales and how a lot of the data necessary to calculate the different indicators or methodologies is not readily available and that a significant amount of time and cost will be required to obtain the data. It was emphasized the report needs to clearly layout for the Legislature the problems which will occur in implementing any one of the different methodologies. It was suggested that for each Scale Indicator an additional heading or section should be added possibly titled Known Data Limitations or Difficulties in Developing or Obtaining the Required Information to summarize these problems. DWR was in agreement this addition was needed for each Scale Methodology.

3. There was a lot of discussion on implementation of the Field Scale methodologies. DWR mentioned development of Field Scale data would be useful for farmers to better understand their existing water use. They also stated the collection of the required data and implementation of the Field Scale methodologies was intended to be a cooperative process that would be voluntary. Steve Hatchett also mentioned this same point.
4. It was mentioned implementation cost estimates had not been completed yet. DWR handed out a preliminary Cost Estimate sheet they were considering and asked for comments. Comments provided regarding Data Needs included the following:
  - a. The cost to obtain the acreage of the different crops being grown whether in a Field or in a Water Supplier Agency's boundaries needs to be included.
  - b. For small water suppliers additional staff may be needed to obtain all of the data required.

Numerous editorial comments were provided at the meeting, and although my desire was to keep it simple, the report is a reasonable first step in addressing the complex water supply and water use efficiency issues that will be presented in the report.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger L. Reynolds", with a stylized, flowing script.

Roger L. Reynolds